

A NEW PALM ASSOCIATED *MYSTROPS*
FROM BRAZIL (COLEOPTERA NITIDULIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT

Mystrops gilloglyi n. sp. (Nitidulidae), from Pernambuco, Brazil is described and illustrated. This Neotropical genus contains 19 described species, of which 5, including *M. gilloglyi*, are associated with palms.

Mystrops is a small Neotropical genus that is distinguished from most other nitidulids by the presence of conspicuously elongated antennae in the males, extending to the tip of the abdomen in some species. Little published information on the group is almost exclusively taxonomic. A review by Gillogly (1955) is recommended to anyone attempting to identify members of the group. Since then, Gillogly (1972) described an additional species from Costa Rica and Jelinek (1969) described 3 from Bolivia and Paraguay. Host associations have been reported for only 4 species: *M. fryi* Grouvelle, *M. heterocera* Sharp, *M. bondari* Gillogly, and *M. costaricensis* Gillogly. All were collected from male flowers of certain palms. The following brings the number of described species to 19.

Mystrops gilloglyi Connell, NEW SPECIES
(Fig. 1-6)

Oblong-oval, length 2 to 2.25 times greatest width, moderately depressed; testaceous with vaguely defined fuscus areas near elytral suture in some specimens; dorsal surface uniformly punctate, except scutellum less strongly so, and moderately densely clothed with fine pale testaceous pubescence; punctures separated by their own diameters or less and each bearing a short fine pale testaceous hair; alutaceous between punctures.

Head transverse; strongly and broadly depressed on frons between antennal bases. Eyes prominent, finely faceted. Clypeus not evident. Labrum deeply bilobed, indentation reaching almost to base; lobes evenly rounded, heavily bearded. Mandibles dilated in basal 0.66, strongly narrowed at beginning of apical 0.33 which has the appearance of a darkened tusk, a smaller tooth behind this on inner margin concealed by labrum, and an additional one behind this on left mandible of male.

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Antennae of male reaching from 0.25 to 0.75 length of elytra, setose, but the only long setae are a few on the club. Segment 1 thick, cylindrical, as broad as club and 0.25 longer. Other segments except club narrower, but each enlarged at tip; 2, 3, 6, 7, and 8 about equal in length; 4 and 5 longer, as long as basal segment; 9, 10, and 11 forming club, 9 elongate conical, as long as 10 and 11 combined, 10 and 11 transverse. Female antennae not elongated.

Pronotum nearly twice as wide as long, slightly narrowed toward front; anterior margin nearly straight; front angles rounded, hind angles obtuse but elongated hairs covering them make these angles appear to project rearward; hind margin sinuate at each side near angles.

Scutellum triangular.

Elytra combined width about equal to length; sides evenly arcuate; tips separately rounded; sutural angles obtuse; sutural striae complete, but narrowing strongly near apex.

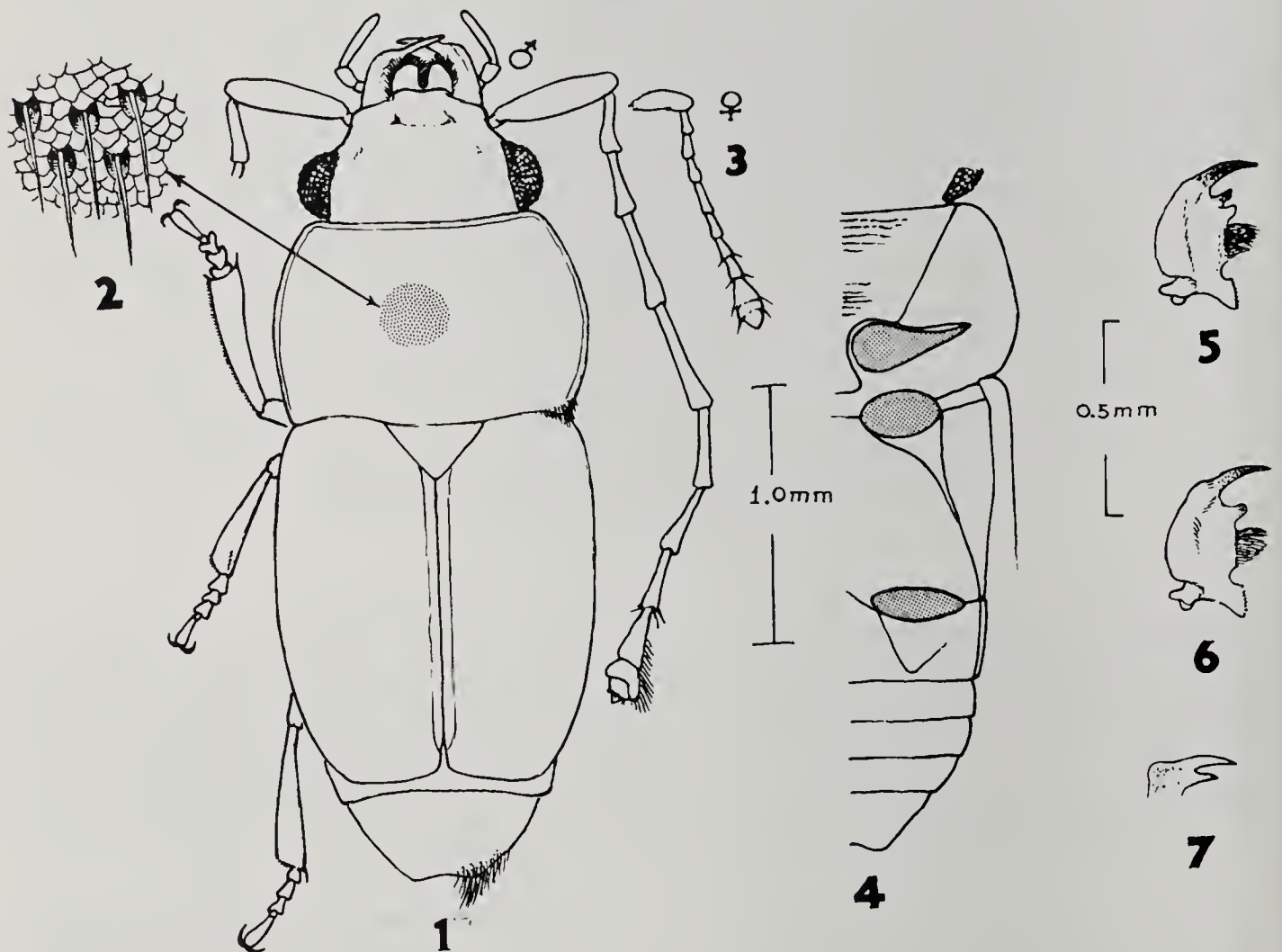


Fig. 1-6: *Mystrops gilloglyi* sp. n. 1) male, legs not shown on right side, antenna omitted on left side; 2) detail of dorsal surface sculpturing; 3) right antenna of allotype; 4) ventral aspect of left side of thorax and abdomen; 5) left mandible of male; 6) left mandible of female.

Fig. 7. Apical portion of left mandible of *Mystrops rotundula* Sharp. (Redrawn from Sharp 1889).

All illustrations by E. P. Catts.

Pygidium similar in both sexes; in basal 0.75 variably flattened to slightly convex medially, often turned upwards at sides, juncture of lateral margin with margin of hypopygidium visible from above and often forming a low rim along both sides; the apical 0.25 deflexed and concave, appearing variably truncate or indented from above, while actually rounded at the tip which can be seen only in a rear end view; a median protuberance of variable size proximad to the perpendicularly deflexed portion; clothed with moderately long hairs which extend beyond lateral and posterior margins; male supplementary segment not evident.

Prosternum nearly smooth except for 6 to 10 transverse wrinkles and sparse, shallow punctures.

Metasternum with axillary space extending from inner margin of coxal cavity to meet the episternal suture at about half the distance to the hind coxa.

Sternite 1 with postcoxal line extending postero-laterally from inner margin of hind coxal cavity nearly to the hind margin of the sternite and ending there, or, in some specimens, recurving toward the outer part of the hind coxa.

In Gillogly's key this species runs to *M. rotundula* Sharp, which I have not seen, but Sharp's (1889) description is of a smaller species with differently formed mandibles (Fig. 7). Moreover, I do not find an indication of a pygidium shaped as in *M. gilloglyi* in the descriptions of any of the previously known species. This species is named after Lorin R. Gillogly, in recognition of his efforts toward a better understanding of this interesting genus.

Length 2.0 to 3.0mm; width 0.8 to 1.4mm.

Holotype male and allotype in National Museum of Natural History [USNM]. *Type locality*: BRAZIL, Pernambuco. G. P. de Arruda, May 1969, from palm tree. Paratypes, same data [USNM-3], [California Academy of Sciences - 2], [Instituto Biologica, Sao Paulo, Brazil - 2].

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